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LB 305

said originally, it's estimated that 91 percent of the districts would benefit by this. There are a few that won't because they don't have the levy...they have...they're at the levy limit and they're also at their budget spending limit. But like to have you look at this very carefully. It's my sense that if we don't get something done like this, this year, there will not be anything done in the LB 305 area, and I guess that's for each one of us to decide as to how critical or important it is to do something here. Because I've heard several comment that it's going to be LB 305 or none, and I think we ought to do something more than LB 305. I think it does complement our...the initiative we do have in the mainline budget because we do have some loan forgiveness for those beginning teachers that I think ought to be very helpful in many cases. If you can get a loan forgiveness up to \$2,500 a year, that does target those that need that particular help in those early stages. Because one of the things that I've...I've thought in this teacher salary, we've had lots of discussion here on the floor, but it looks like to me starting salaries and the early years are where it's really a difficult area for teachers to have a satisfactory salary. As you get up into years, based on our present brackets, depending on where you're at, what system you're in, there is a fairly decent salary for years of service in many cases. But it is very difficult for young teachers, young graduates starting out and paying off loans and having a decent salary to start. School boards want to face this issue. This gives them an opportunity in conjunction with the loan forgiveness, and actually there's a federal loan forgiveness. There was some opposition to that local...state loan forgiveness because we have a federal program. But, between the two, it would look like that that ought to help young beginning teachers. So I offer this for your consideration. Once again, I thank Senator Tyson for allowing me to substitute this motion and I ask you to give this serious consideration. As I said, there should be...should have the handout on your desk by now and that gives a synopsis of how it is. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, for the past year, in talking to my teachers and my school administrators,